

TEACHER NOTES

Understanding Railway Texts and Contexts - Reading for Meaning



Contextual Summary

This is an English reading task that enables students to practise their analytical reading and comprehension skills, as well as summarising techniques. The task links to specific information about the history of aspects of the Isle of Wight Railway that should be interesting, and relevant in terms of skills application, to students in key stage 4.

Questions have been chosen because they enable students to practise their analytical reading of unseen texts, focusing on form, purpose, audience, literary devices such as persuasive techniques and language choices, as well as reading for meaning 'between the lines'.

Task Implementation

This task can be undertaken before the visit, as a taster activity, during the visit using the available classroom space, or after the visit as a follow-up task. There is maximum flexibility here.

The task could be useful in preparing students for visiting the Isle of Wight Steam Railway museum, as they will then have an insight into the kind of document and historical aspects they will find there.

Essentially, this task links with the visit in a supporting, peripheral sense, allowing for the key skills of English to be practised whilst engaging with the aspects of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and of rail history on the island.

Ability Levels

There are 3 versions of this resource, generally adapted for low/mid/high ability students. These could be adapted further by teachers if required, i.e. for SEN. For example, students could be tasked with answering fewer questions, or the ones that interest them the most, or perhaps work in teams to find the answers.

Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Reading for meaning
- ▶ Analysing language choices
- ▶ Identifying techniques used by the writer to persuade/inform
- ▶ Use quotations and other evidence to summarise and evidence their understanding

Relationship to Curriculum

The above skills are required to be taught and practised as per the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and the National Curriculum 2014, for Key Stage 4, READING - COMPREHENSION.

SUBJECT

English

UNIT

Reading - Comprehension

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

- ✓ Pre-Visit
- ✓ On-Site Activity
- ✓ Post-Visit
- ✓ Peripheral Task



APPLICABILITY



KS4

S4 - S5

CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS

- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence
- ✓ All relevant exam boards

Applies to Resources Numbered:

1	0	1	1	2	1
1	0	1	1	2	2
1	0	1	1	2	3

Learning Opportunities

Reading for Meaning - Understanding Railway Texts and Contexts

Resource ID: **101121** (low ability), **101122** (mid ability), **101123** (high ability)

Pre-Visit

The resource/questions could be used/answered in class prior to the trip so students are aware of the type of historical documents and information they will see at the Isle of Wight Steam Railway, and will be thinking more analytically about exhibits.

During the Visit

The resource/questions could be used/answered using the classroom available on site, so students gain a better contextual understanding of the venue and how it fits into the history of Isle of Wight rail services.

Post Visit

The resource/questions could be used/ answered as a follow-up task to allow for more skills-based curriculum work after the visit to be undertaken.

Enrichment Opportunities

This resource enables students to gain an enriched view of the historical context and aspects of social history relating to the railways on the Isle of Wight. Although historical documents, they allow for cross-curricular English skills to be applied successfully. Students will hopefully explore the venue with a greater desire for contextual knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to demonstrate many aspects of their reading skills, by answering challenging questions and comprehending/analysing the language choices and literary techniques contained within the text.

See Also...

Other resources at Isle of Wight Steam Railway relevant to this age group include:

101XXX		to be confirmed
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		
101XXX		

For further details visit www.edudest.info and click:

- ▶ *Resource Finder* - to locate specific resources identified above
- ▶ *Venue Finder* - to learn more about education at this venue
- ▶ *Subject Finder* - to find other relevant Isle of Wight venues

